# SATURDAY EVENING POST.

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[From the Philadelphia Casket.

## LEAVES FROM A LAWYER'S POST BOOK.

### THE FOOR DEBTOR.

It was a cold, wet, comfortless night, and the wind swept wildly along the deserted streets, driving the sleety rain into the face of the wayfarer, when I descended the steps of my office in Chestnut street, and turned my face towards Fourth street, in the evening, from an unprofitable day's business. As the distance was not great, I had given up the idea of riding, and had started on foot, when I remembered that I had left my cane in the office, and turned back to get it. As I entered the office, I found a man standing in the centre of the floor, with his back towards the door, and the light falling full upon his face. He was a stranger to me, and I thought I had never seen a more repulsive countenance. His features were large and coarse, and his face was covered with a thick growth of beard, which, from its appearance, seemed to have been suffered to grow for a month. His eyes were small, and looked out from under a pair of shaggy eyebrows, which, in connection with his dark, heavy hair, gave him a savage appearance. His clothes were of the coarsest description, and were literally covered with mud, as if he had been travelling through the deepest mire. He was a perfect picture of misery, and I could not help pitying him, although I felt a kind of instinctive dislike to his appearance.

"Have you any business with me, sir?" I asked, as I walked up to the desk, and took my cane from the corner.

"Are you a lawyer?" he asked, in a deep, hoarse voice, which seemed to come from the bottom of a barrel.

"I am," I replied, as I turned to look at him.

"Then I have business with you," he continued, as he turned his head and looked me in the face.

"Be seated, then," I said, as I pointed to a chair, and sat down myself.

"I have a wife and child," he began, "who are now in a cold, comfortless room, without fire, and without food. I have not a cent in the world, and I am in debt for the room we occupy. I have been sick for a long time, and have not been able to work. My wife has been sick, too, and has had to work for us all. She has taken in sewing, and has worked night and day, but she could not get enough to keep us from starving. She has been sick for a week, and I have had to nurse her and the child, and could not get out to look for work. I have not a friend in the world that I can call upon, and I am in debt for the room we occupy. I have been sick